IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is listed below.

Claims 1–27: Canceled.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, and

selecting transformed plants having raffinose synthetic activity of at least 4.7 nmol/hr/mg

~~growing the plants under drought conditions~~.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 28, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing the drought resistance of plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

selecting transformed plants having raffinose synthetic activity of at least 4.7 nmol/hr/mg

~~growing the plants under drought conditions~~.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants,

comprising introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, and

selecting transformed plants having raffinose synthetic activity of at least 4.7 nmol/hr/mg

~~growing the plants under high salt conditions~~.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 38, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing resistance to high salt concentration in plants, comprising:

introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein having raffinose synthase activity into plants, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 60°C in 1 X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and

selecting transformed plants having raffinose synthetic activity of at least 4.7 nmol/hr/mg

~~growing the plants under high salt conditions~~.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of *Arabidopsis*, *Glycine*, *Vicia*, rape-seed, *Helianthus*, *Gossypium*, sugar beet, *Oryza*, *Saccharum*, corn, and *Sorghum*.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into the plant on a vector.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide is introduced into a chromosome of the plant.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein the polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 48-54: Canceled.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 28, 33, 38 and 43 have been amended to specify "selecting transformed plants having raffinose synthetic activity of at least 4.7 nmol/hr/mg." Claims 48-54 have been canceled. These amendments are supported by Table 1 at page 24 of the specification.[1] Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

[1] Applicants note that the data in Table does not indicate that that the transformed plants have an activity that is at least 4.7 fold greater than that of a wild-type plant grown under the same conditions.